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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
Area Bulletin 1990-1999

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### LWV Bulletin, October, 1997

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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LWVWV WEB SITE

October, 1997

<http://access.mountain.net~mhalley/lwvwwv.htm>

## Huntington's Budget October 23 meeting topic

David Harrington, Huntington's Director of Administration and Finance, will be the speaker at the League's October 23 meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. At the 1997 annual meeting of the League, members adopted a study of Local Finances (Taxes, Fees, Budget). We have asked Mr. Harrington to talk about income and outlays; how much latitude there is in the budget; what are the sources of income; what outlays the city cannot change; unfunded mandates, etc.

If you have other questions which you would like to have answered which would need prior research, please call in the questions to Helen Gibbins, 736-3287 or Betty Barrett, 525-5909. We will give the questions to Mr. Harrington prior to the meeting. As at all of our meetings there will be time allowed for questions at the meeting.

The Huntington League chose this topic as part of the national "Making Democracy Work" emphasis. We believe accurate information about local government is essential for citizens who wish to participate in decision making.

**Kudos to** --League members Rose Riter for preparing the Directory of Public Officials and Dr. Clair Matz for the informative September program on the United Nations.

### UNICEF - October 24

Cards are available at Pier I. For the newest catalog, call Marcia Daoust at 529-4406. Collection boxes have been placed at several restaurants and businesses and at Magic Makers. At least 8 churches are having special events and taking part in Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

### Corrections and additions to the Directory of Public Officials

\*Park Board -- Jim St. Clair is listed twice.  
Don McCroskey (D) was omitted.

\*William McIlvaine was appointed to the Cabell County Board of Education.

## Action

(1) Contacted US Senators about supporting the Hatch-Kennedy amendments to the budget resolution to provide grants over the next 5 years to states to help provide child health insurance.

(2) Contacted Rahall about supporting wetlands protection; supporting EPA's new ambient air standards (fine particulates and low level ozone); children's health initiative.

(3) Statements to the Cabell County Solid Waste Authority on its plan which it is updating.

The US Senate has the opportunity to pass meaningful campaign finance reform this year. Please contact Senator Byrd 202-224-3954, or write to him at 311 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 and Senator Rockefeller, 202-224-6472 or 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Ask them to vote for cloture to stop a filibuster; and for legislation that closes the soft money and issue advocacy loopholes. Our message is "Don't Come Home Without It".

## Teen Pregnancy is at a high

Contrary to commonly-held beliefs, only 30% of all nonmarital births in the United States occur to teenagers. Thirty-five percent of nonmarital births are to women aged 20-24, while 35 percent are to women 25 and older. On the other hand, teenagers account for about half of all *first* births to unmarried women.

Although the nonmarital birth rate is higher for African Americans than for whites, the majority of nonmarital births (60% in 1993) are to white women, and the rate is rising faster among white women.

Nonmarital births also tend to be higher among disadvantaged and less-educated women and those in urban areas. Among unmarried women aged 20 and older, women with less than a high school diploma are at least three times more likely to have a baby as unmarried women with some college education. However, during the past decade, the nonmarital birth rate has risen in all age groups, in small towns as well as cities, in all regions and states, and in all socioeconomic groups.

*...from the Report to Congress on Out-Of-Wedlock Childbearing, Sept. 95*

## Radio Commentary: Vocational Education

*Karen Lukens*

One of the biggest challenges of the twenty-first century is developing a work force capable of meeting the demands of tomorrow's jobs. In 1950, 60% of jobs could be filled by unskilled workers; by the year 2000, that goes down to 15%. What that means is that almost every future job will require more than a high school diploma.

The good news is that West Virginia's higher education system is working to meet the challenge. In 1995, legislation was passed to establish eleven districts in the state to be served by Community and Technology Colleges. These colleges grant two-year associate degrees and one-year certificates for completion of specific programs.

Community colleges aren't new to West Virginia, but the increased emphasis on meeting work force development needs is. Education officials in each district meet with business representatives to determine what the community needs. Programs in the colleges can then be customized to meet those needs.

Although the process is relatively new, it's already getting impressive results. Fairmont's community college has worked with the FBI Center to develop computer technology programs and improve basic skills of potential workers. In Parkersburg, the Northern Panhandle, and the Kanawha Valley, the community colleges are training workers to replace retiring supervisors in manufacturing. In the Eastern Panhandle, Shepherd's Community College has entered an agreement with General Motors to prepare workers. Bluefield's Community College will grant Associate Degrees in Aqua-culture focusing on the growing fish farming industry in the area.

West Virginia has been inspired by the highly successful programs in North and South Carolina and is typical of systems throughout the country. Our higher education system has moved onto the mainstream and recognizes that yesterday's workers can't perform in tomorrow's jobs.

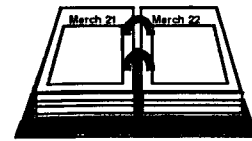
The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household.

To join, send your check to : Ann Speer, Treasurer,  
706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

**LWV**      **Huntington Area**

**BULLETIN**

Sally K. Adkins, Editor



**10/23/97**      LWV Huntington Area, monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. (See story on front)

**10/27/97**      LWV Huntington Area, Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

### The Huntington Area LWV Board

Co-Presidents - Nancy Taylor and Helen Gibbins

1st VP - Virginia Hensley

2nd VP - Rebecca Bookwalter

Secretary - Frances Huddleston

Treasurer - Ann Logan Speer

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Arrangements - Mary Anderson

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Education - Helen Brown

Social Policy - Beth Bauserman

Public Relations - Laura Gilliam

Voters Service - Terri Waldeck

Bulletin - Sally Kirk Adkins

Nominating - Anne Csernica and Bernice Steirn

### Directory of Public Officials

If you need more of the enclosed directory, go to the public library or contact Nancy Taylor, 522-3361

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